

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 57th LEGISLATURE - SPECIAL SESSION COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIR DAVE LEWIS**, on July 24, 2002 at 11:00 A.M., in Room 102 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Dave Lewis, Chair (R)  
Rep. Edith Clark, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Matt McCann, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. John Brueggeman (R)  
Rep. Rosalie (Rosie) Buzzas (D)  
Rep. Tim Callahan (D)  
Rep. Bob Davies (R)  
Rep. Stanley (Stan) Fisher (R)  
Rep. Dick Haines (R)  
Rep. Joey Jayne (D)  
Rep. Dave Kasten (R)  
Rep. Christine Kaufmann (D)  
Rep. Monica Lindeen (D)  
Rep. John Sinrud (R)  
Rep. Joe Tropila (D)  
Rep. John Witt (R)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Donald L. Hedges (R)  
Rep. Jeff Pattison (R)

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Taryn Purdy, Legislative Branch  
Mary Lou Schmitz, Committee Secretary

**Please Note:** These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: HB 1, 7/17/2002  
Executive Action: None

**Chairman Dave Lewis** opened the meeting with announcements explaining the absences of **Representative Hedges** and **Representative Pattison** due to travel delays and introduced **Representative John Stinrud** who was appointed to replace **Steve Vick** who resigned from the Committee.

**Chairman Lewis** then explained the order in which the Committee would follow from Summary Table for Executive Action **EXHIBIT (aph-9c01)** and the Bills to be acted on. There will be discussion by the Committee, public testimony given and then executive action will be taken. Committee members may also offer amendments to **HB 2**. The first obligation is to go through and act on the **Governor's** proposal and then deal with additional amendments as offered by the Committee.

**Representative Fisher** asked if a number, or dollar value, has been determined for the Committee to work with. **Chairman Lewis** said the discussions he had with Leadership were that unless there was a major difference on the revenue estimates, they should work with the \$45 million shortfall. The difference between that and what was discussed in the Joint meeting with the Senate Finance and Claims, is the potential for supplementals. Those can be dealt with in January. At this point, based on the consensus of the revenue numbers between the LFD and the Executive, they can safely work with the \$45 million and then deal with the Fire Bills and other Supplemental Bills in January.

In response to a question from **Representative McCann, Taryn Purdy, Principal Fiscal Analyst** explained the totals in the general fund total adjustments are \$45.66 million and that is what the Governor proposed. The difference between that and what is seen in the balance sheet, is the \$400,000 assumed in the Feed Bill.

**Chairman Lewis** mentioned this meeting is being televised, the first official action of the Legislature. **Lois Menzies, Executive Director, Legislative Services Division**, explained the areas receiving the telecasts.

**Chairman Lewis** introduced Valencia Lane, who will assist the Committee on legal issues.

**Representative Pattison** is in attendance at this point.

**Vice Chair Clark** took over the meeting while **Representative Lewis** presented HB 1.

HEARING ON HB 1

**Sponsor:** **Representative Dave Lewis** said this Bill appropriates money for the actions of the Special Session. **Ms. Menzies** explained the background information from **EXHIBIT(aph-9c02)** HB 1 appropriates funds for pre-session activities. That would include these committee hearings and organizational meetings such as the caucus that occurs the day before the Session opens August 5. It also includes money for session operations and then for some wrap-up work following the session in the way of post-session publications. The total figure is \$497,666.

**Proponents:** None

**Opponents:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

**Representative Kasten** referred to what he heard concerning not paying legislators during the session and asked what the dollar amount would be. **Ms. Menzies** said the salaries are roughly \$10,700 per day so if collectively the legislature would choose not to accept its salary for one day, the savings would be that amount.

**Representative Jayne** referred **Ms. Menzies** to the amount of funds for the Legislative Services Division for Bill critiquing, etc. During the regular session, are their extra funds associated as in this Bill or do they absorb the costs as they were doing business during that session? **Ms. Menzies** said for each session, whether regular or special, there is a separate Feed Bill. They do not commingle those funds. **Representative Jayne** asked if it is possible for Legislative Services Division to absorb the \$46,178 without HB 1. **Ms. Menzies** said that would be a risky proposition so early in the fiscal year.

**Closing by Sponsor:** **Representative Lewis** closed the Hearing on HB 1.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:35 A.M.

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REP. DAVE LEWIS, Chair

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MARY LOU SCHMITZ, Secretary

DL/MS

**EXHIBIT**(aph-9cad)